

OVER THE LAND OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS.

Matthew S. Sasser, carpenter, 61, Mount Olive, N. C., was asphyxiated in a rooming house at Richmond as a result of blowing out the gas before retiring. That was the conclusion reached by Coroner Whitfield after making an investigation.

Of interest to organized merchants and business men throughout North Carolina is the announcement by Secretary Paul Leonard, of Statesville, that the State Merchants' Association will hold its 1918 convention at Wrightsville Beach June 18, 19 and 20.

Fred P. Latham, of Belhaven, president of the Farmers and Farm Women's State Association, is making elaborate plans for the big convention that is to be held by the farmers and their wives at State College, Raleigh, during the latter part of August.

Family Bible refuse to lie. At least this is the declaration of United States Commissioner Hugh Scarlett, who detected an effort to change birth dates in the family Bible of William Williams, colored, of Person county. Williams was before the commissioner on a charge of violating the selective draft by failing to register.

J. F. Armistead, fiscal agent for the Empire Steel Company, a North Carolina corporation, is being sought by officers of Wake county who have warrants for his arrest in arrest and bail proceedings, the warrant being sworn out by persons who have purchased stock in the corporation on alleged representations.

Traffic officer J. T. Dwyer, of the Charlotte police department has in his possession an adz which was used by his grandfather, Thomas K. Dwyer, in helping to build the Merrimac near Norfolk, Va., during the war between the states. Mr. Dwyer prizes the old relic very highly, and members of the police department were recently given an opportunity to inspect it.

The man who invented the sewing machine achieved what he was after when he stopped trying to imitate the human hand. If you go into a factory you will see machines doing things which only human skill could do but a short time ago, but the processes are quite different from the manual method. The inventors have risen superior to the formulae that nature would seem to have laid down for them.

After deliberating on the matter the city commissioners of Asheville announced their decision to close all the pool rooms and bowling alleys of the city on June 1 by refusing to issue new license for the next fiscal year. This action is taken as a war measure, a large number of citizen of the city having appeared before the board to ask them to close these places for the reason that they promoted idleness and crime.

The advocates of cattle tick in Craven county, that is those who are opposed to the dipping vat route to destruction of this pest, have launched their offensive against the government's campaign to eradicate the tick by dynamiting four vats. One was destroyed on the farm of Mr. W. R. Fute about nine miles east of New Bern and the other three were a few miles further west. The identity of the dynamiters is unknown.

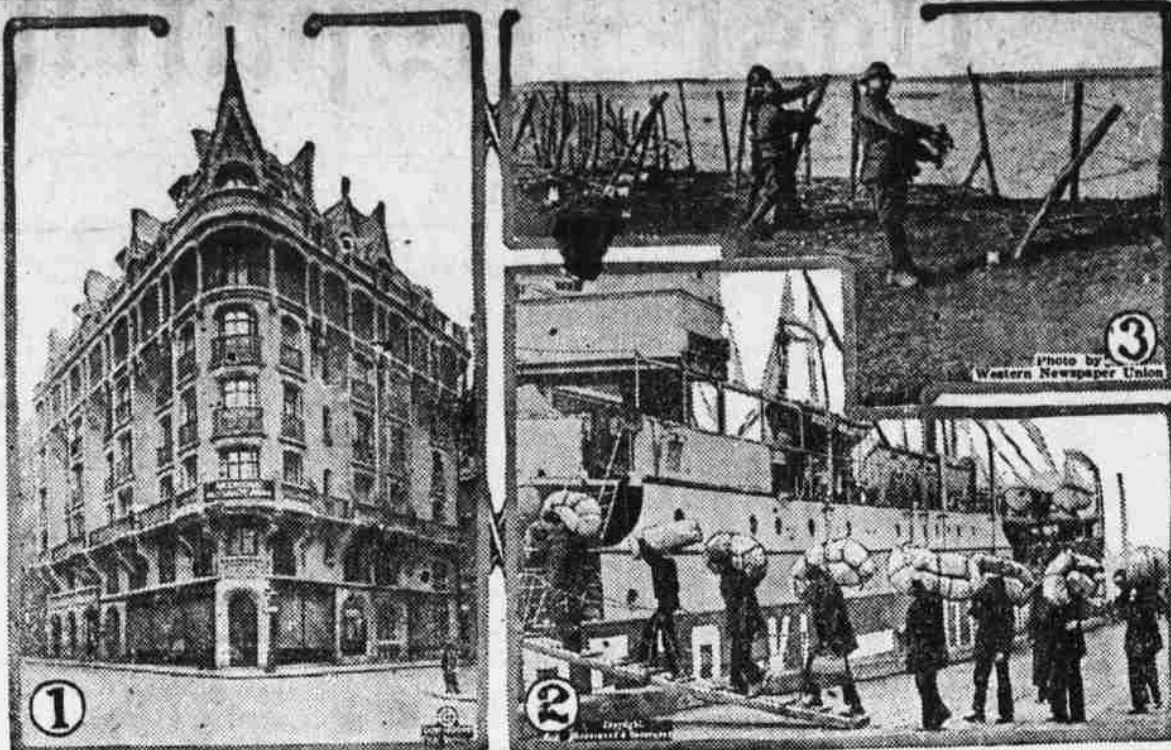
"Out of the tragedy of war there can come no compensation, but there may come out of it some things that will lift us up and show us that no man loves anything he will not die for," said Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels in an address before the students of the State College of Agriculture and Engineering. He championed the cause of the American youth, vouching for the high purpose, the patriotic spirit, and the zeal of the young men of today, who, he declared, are "worthy of the men who won the liberties which now hang in the balance."

The body of Charles Thompson, 8-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson, of Burlington, after being in the water 73 days, was found just below the dam at Swepsonville. January 12, the boy, with some companions, was walking some planks used for inspecting under the railroad trestle at Haw River and he lost his balance and fell forty feet to the water below.

Efforts are being made to put to work the 2,000 interned Germans at Hot Springs.

The war department authorized announcement that ten officers of the medical reserve corps have been ordered to proceed to Asheville, N. C., to take charge of the United States army hospital at Knifworth Inn.

That 95 per cent of the bridges in North Carolina are unsafe for all kinds of traffic, is the declaration of W. S. Falls, of Raleigh, head of the state highway commission, who fully discussed bridge building before the regular meeting of the North Carolina club.



1—The University Union building in Paris, opened as an army club for college men and their friends. 2—American bluejackets going aboard one of the Dutch steamers taken over by the American government. 3—Italian soldiers placing wire entanglements along the Piave river line where an Austrian attack was threatening.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Great German Drive Slowed Up and Allied Counter-Thrust Seems at Hand.

AMIENS THE HUN'S OBJECTIVE

British Speedily Check Diversion Attack on Arras—French Stubbornly Hold Line on Oise—Americans Acquit Themselves Well—Ukrainians and Bolsheviks Recapture Odessa.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Another week of the bloodiest kind of fighting failed to bring to the Germans the real victory on which they had so confidently counted, for though the British and French armies had been forced to yield further territory, their lines were unbroken and their spirits undaunted. As the German military authorities, General Ardenne, says, it is not the capture of territory that can bring a decision, but only a victory over and through the shattering of the enemy's armies. So far from being shattered, the allied forces, weary and battered as they are, are full of confidence, and as this is written are but awaiting the opportune moment to strike back with the big army of maneuver which was placed at the disposal of the supreme war council.

Amiens, a most important link in the British line of communications, appeared to be the real objective of the Germans, and they were able during the week to push forward toward that city, along the line of the Somme, as far as Hamel, and a little farther north they took Albert and were holding it against fierce counter-attacks by the British. To the south they had pushed a salient forward a little beyond Montdidier, but there the French came back at them with such élan that they were checked and lost several commanding positions. East of this sector the French troops held stubbornly to their lines along the Oise and on Thursday attacked dashing south of Noyon and drove the enemy back two miles at the point of the bayonet. It was along this east and west base of the German salient that the allied world expected the great counter-thrust of the army of maneuver to be made. Any considerable advance to the north there it was pointed out, would force the Germans to draw back to save their lines of communication, which already are so badly stretched out that they have great difficulty in bringing up artillery and food.

What looked like a diversion rather than a serious threat was the attack of the Huns in the middle of the week at the northern extremity of the line of battle toward Arras. There the British, after giving some ground, repulsed the enemy with terrible slaughter. Presumably this thrust at Arras was made to keep the British from sending men and guns to the sector where their lines join those of the French, but it was so quickly blocked that it failed of its purpose. Extraordinarily bold and successful was the work of the British and French aviators. In their low-flying battle planes they flew in swarms continuously over the battlefields and back of the German lines, playing havoc with the enemy's transports and inflicting heavy casualties in his reserves. Battles in the air were innumerable, but the allied airmen maintained the upper hand always. The artillerymen also distinguished themselves, sticking to their firing to the last moment and usually saving their guns when forced to fall back.

On the whole, the developments of the week were such as to restore confidence among the allies, for though the situation was still critical, it seemed that Premier Clemenceau was right when he said that whatever might happen in the next few days, the enemy could not win the path to the sea nor the path to Paris.

Just what part the American troops have been playing in the Somme battle

had not been made clear at the time of writing, but testimony to their excellent fighting was given by a wounded French captain who arrived in Paris. "Entirely new in this warfare," said he, "the Americans worked like the best veterans."

Some of Pershing's men, at least, were moved over to the sectors left by French troops who were sent farther west to stem the German advance. In their own sector near Toul they had a rather lively week of it, for the German artillery shelled them continuously and seemed to be preparing for an infantry attack. The American guns made effective response, and on occasion drenched the enemy positions with gas shells.

There were increasing evidences during the week that the Italian front is to be the scene of another Teuton drive. Airplane observers reported that heavy re-enforcements to the Austrian forces were being brought daily from the Rumanian front, together with numerous new pieces of heavy artillery. In the mountain section the artillery duels grew in intensity, and everything pointed toward an early effort to break through to the plains in that region. It was supposed the Austrians believed the Italians would be dispirited by the German successes in France.

The "miracle gun" with which the Germans have been shelling Paris from a distance of 76 miles turns out to be a product of the Krupp works, as is proved by the Kaiser's message to Doctor Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach congratulating him on the success of the new weapon. A German ordinance authority says these extraordinary guns are merely being tested on Paris and have been built for the purpose of bombarding London.

Another considerable victory was scored last week by the British forces in Mesopotamia, the entire Turkish army in the Hit area being captured or destroyed. In Palestine Allenby's men continued their advance beyond the Jordan, approaching the Hedjaz railway on which they heavily bombed troop transport trains.

The revolt of the Russians against the brutal pillaging of the Germans who have penetrated their country is beginning to bear fruit. Troops of the Ukrainian rada are co-operating with the bolshevik forces and already have recaptured Odessa after a bloody battle, in which naval forces took part. Before that the red guards and armed civilians had retaken Kherson, Nikolayev and Znamensk from the Teutons. In some places the peasants killed the German soldiers who were taking away their foodstuffs. The Ukrainians were angered by attempts of the Germans to go far beyond the terms of the peace treaty and strip the country of its stores of grain and sugar. It is said a council of German officers decided to continue operations in Ukraine until the power of the bolsheviks there had been eliminated.

Trotsky, speaking in Moscow, declared Russia will never be an enslaved country, though the soviet government is now weak and poor. He said they would introduce compulsory military training for the workmen and peasants and create an army of 300,000 men within eight or ten weeks. The allies still stand ready to support all elements within Russia which will oppose the German invasion.

However, as Gilbert K. Chesterton says, it is plain that the bolshevik philosophy does not prevent a man from fighting; it only prevents him from winning.

Probably it was inevitable that politics should enter into the debates and doings of congress this year, but it has taken a particularly unfortunate turn owing to the senatorial election in Wisconsin. The president, because of his effort to bring about the election of Mr. Davies, is accused by the Republicans of going out of his way to confuse partisanship with loyalty, and for this he was attacked by Senator Smoot and others, who assert the Republicans have not sought to secure party advantage from the war. Senator Williams, really started this row by a speech in which he charged that revelations of the failure of the airplane program and of the backwardness of shipbuilding were "poisoned gas" directed by the Republicans against the administration. This was

vigorously denied by Senator Jones and others, who contended that the public should be told the truth and not fed on misleading statements of the Progress of our war preparations.

In a follow-up speech Thursday Senator Williams bluntly declared that Senator La Follette should be expelled from the senate, and that Victor Berger, Socialist candidate for the senate from Wisconsin, should be interned. Mr. Williams' colleagues appeared to be startled by this, but not one of them had the nerve to indorse his suggestions.

As to airplanes, it was admitted in the senate that instead of the 20,000 or 12,000 planes the aircraft board had promised to send to France by July 1, only 37 will be shipped, according to the present schedule. Testifying before the senate committee, Gen. Leonard Wood told of the crying need for airplanes for the American expeditionary forces now on the other side. Mr. Creel's publicity committee came in for a sharp reproof for sending out misleading captions on photographs of airplane construction.

On Thursday Senator Overman aroused the senate by making the positive statement that German spies were employed in the Curtiss airplane plant at Buffalo, and that their work had delayed the making of planes for months. These spies, he said, had weakened joints in the planes so that they collapsed, and he exhibited one of the parts so tampered with to prove his assertion. Mr. Overman advocated that the government commander the Curtiss plant and turn out every one of its present employees.

Following the debate in the senate the shipping board issued a statement of its work, showing that since it began its activities 183 vessels have been launched, of which 103 have been completed and put into service. Of the launches, 103 were requisitioned vessels and 23 were built for the board on contract in new yards. Eleven of the launches were wood. "Quantity production will win the war, and that is what we are getting," said Chairman Hurley. Negotiations for the transfer of 150,000 tons of Japanese shipping to the United States have been completed, and it is understood much more will follow.

The government, and Great Britain and France as well, continue to emphasize the fact that the basis of victory for the allied cause is an adequate supply of shipping, for America's armies must be transported to France, food and munitions for them and for the allies must be taken over, and for these purposes ships must be provided much faster than the German U-boats can sink them.

The latest report of the British admiralty shows an increase in the number of larger vessels sunk by submarines.

As a spur to American activity and enthusiasm, Premier Lloyd-George sent a Lord Reading, British ambassador, an appeal for urgent haste in American troop movements to France. This Lord Reading read at a banquet in his honor in New York. "It is impossible," said the premier's cablegram, "to exaggerate the importance of getting American re-enforcements across the Atlantic in the shortest possible time."

In the German-infested regions of the country the enemy aliens and traitors were unable to restrain their joy over the German drive, and in consequence there were many arrests. It is to be hoped that at least some of the seditionists will be severely punished, but in view of the mild treatment given most of them the hope is rather faint. Americans the country over are growing decidedly impatient with the kid-glove method of handling the spies and traitors who are caught. The feeling that many of them should be stood up before a wall and shot is prevalent, and the action of impulsive patriots in certain sections makes it plain that it would be easy to revive the Vigilantes of the old days on the Pacific coast and clean up the whole unsavory crew. The genuine spy commands a certain amount of respect, his work being recognized in a certain measure as a part of warfare, but there can be only contempt for the disloyal American citizen, whether he be pacifist, I. W. W., senator or plain civilian.

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